

REMARKS

1. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's comments, which have greatly assisted Applicant in responding.

It should be appreciated that Applicant has elected to amend Claims 1, 21, 24, and 44 and to cancel without prejudice Claims 10 and 33 solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (9/8/00). In making such amendment, Applicant has not and does not in any way narrow the scope of protection to which Applicant considers the invention herein to be entitled. Rather, Applicant reserves Applicant's right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

2 Specification

Applicant thanks the Examiner for providing a suggested title. Applicant suggests a slight modification to the Examiner's suggestion, as follows: "User Selectable Approach for Generating Modifiable Rules". Applicant is of the opinion that it is not necessary to qualify such rules of the claimed invention. Applicant is of the opinion that Applicant's slight modification to the Examiner's suggestion is a complete response.

3. 35 USC §102.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-21 and 24-44 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Mani et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,677,963 (hereafter Mani).

Applicant has amended the independent Claims 1 (24) and 21 (44) to incorporate the allowable subject matter in accordance with the PTO's Patent Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (9/8/00). To avoid lack of duplication of allowable claims, Applicant has canceled without prejudice Claims 10 and 33. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 21, 24, and 44 and their respective dependent claims are deemed to be in allowable condition. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant considers the present invention to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the Examiner's withdrawal of the objection and rejections raised in the above referenced Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicant, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States patent. The Examiner is invited to call to discuss the response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1445.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Amendment to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 21, 24, and 44 as follows.

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 10 and 33 as follows.

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for generating a rule, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a template that defines:

a rule structure with one or more rule elements and an editable rule element;

a editable rule element type, and

a set of choices that a user may choose for the editable rule element;

generating rule element data that defines a set of choices that a user may choose for a rule element;

receiving user choice data that specifies one or more choices made by the user for the rule element; and

generating the rule based upon the user choice data.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps further include presenting said set of choices to said user.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the method further comprises generating a user interface based on said rule element data; and

wherein the step of receiving user choice data includes receiving user choice data from a user interacting with the user interface.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the method further comprises receiving user input specifying a set of values defining said set of choices; and

wherein the step of generating said rule element data includes generating rule element data that defines said set of values as said set of choices.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said rule element is a value.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said rule element data specifies a source of data that defines the set of choices.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said source of data is a database system.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said rule element is a condition.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising processing the rule.
10. (canceled)
11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said rule element data further defines how the user may select said set of choices.
12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the rule based upon the user choice data includes generating the rule based upon the user choice data and other rule data.
13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein:
the other rule data defines another version of the rule; and
said user choice data specifies modification to said version.
14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the other rule data specifies an attribute of the rule not defined by the rule element data.
15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of choices is a set of data types.
16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of choices is a set of data values.
17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of choices is a set of operators.
18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of choices is a set of constraints.
19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of choices is a set of business logic.
20. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the rule is a business rule.

21. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for generating a rule, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a template that defines:

a rule structure with one or more rule elements and an editable rule element;

a editable rule element type, and

a set of choices that a user may choose for the editable rule element;

generating rule element data that defines a set of values that a user may choose for a rule element;

receiving user choice data that specifies one or more values chosen by the user for the rule element; and

generating the rule based upon the user choice data.

22. (original) A computer-implemented method for generating a rule that may be executed by a rules engine, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a template that defines:

a rule structure with one or more rule elements and an editable rule element;

a editable rule element type, and

a set of choices that a user may choose for the editable rule element;

receiving user choice data that specifies one or more choices chosen by the user for the rule element;

generating the rule based upon the user choice data; and

updating a rules repository to reflect the rule.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

generating a user interface based on said template; and

presenting said set of choices to said user using said user interface.

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for generating a rule, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

generating a template that defines:

a rule structure with one or more rule elements and an editable rule element;

a editable rule element type, and

a set of choices that a user may choose for the editable rule element;

generating rule element data that defines a set of choices that a user may choose for a rule element;
receiving user choice data that specifies one or more choices made by the user for the rule element; and
generating the rule based upon the user choice data.

25. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the steps further include presenting said set of choices to said user.

26. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein:
the computer-readable medium further comprises generating a user interface based on said rule element data; and
wherein the step of receiving user choice data includes receiving user choice data from a user interacting with the user interface.

27. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein:
the computer-readable medium further comprises one or more instructions for receiving user input specifying a set of values defining said set of choices; and
wherein the step of generating said rule element data includes generating rule element data that defines said set of values as said set of choices.

28. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said rule element is a value.

29. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said rule element data specifies a source of data that defines the set of choices.

30. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said source of data is a database system.

31. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said rule element is a condition.

32. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further comprising one or more instructions for processing the rule.

33. (canceled)

34. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said rule element data further defines how the user may select said set of choices.

35. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the step of generating the rule based upon the user choice data includes generating the rule based upon the user choice data and other rule data.

36. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein:
the other rule data defines another version of the rule; and
said user choice data specifies modification to said version.

37. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the other rule data specifies an attribute of the rule not defined by the rule element data.

38. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the set of choices is a set of data types.

39. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the set of choices is a set of data values.

40. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the set of choices is a set of operators.

41. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the set of choices is a set of constraints.

42. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the set of choices is a set of business logic.

43. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the rule is a business rule.

44. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for generating a rule, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of

instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

generating a template that defines:

a rule structure with one or more rule elements and an editable rule element;

a editable rule element type, and

a set of choices that a user may choose for the editable rule element;

generating rule element data that defines a set of values that a user may choose for a rule element;

receiving user choice data that specifies one or more values chosen by the user for the rule element; and

generating the rule based upon the user choice data.

45. (original) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for generating a rule, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

generating a template that defines:

a rule structure with one or more rule elements and an editable rule element;

a editable rule element type, and

a set of choices that a user may choose for the editable rule element;

receiving user choice data that specifies one or more choices chosen by the user for the rule element;

generating the rule based upon the user choice data; and

updating a rules repository to reflect the rule.

46. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 45, further comprising one or more instructions for:

generating a user interface based on said template; and

presenting said set of choices to said user using said user interface.

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